

and their members have spread these values throughout South Jersey and I'm proud to represent them in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, places of worship, like Congregation Beth Tikvah, are vital to our communities. They provide people comfort in times of need, care for those less fortunate, and enable people to come together and express their faith. I'm grateful for the impact Congregation Beth Tikvah has made on South Jersey. And I know many of my constituents feel the same way.

PROCLAMATION FOR MS.
BRIDGETTE DIXON THURMAN

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD the following proclamation for Ms. Bridgette Dixon Thurman:

Whereas, in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, there are many individuals who are called to contribute to the needs of our community through leadership and service; and

Whereas, Ms. Bridgette Dixon Thurman has answered that call by giving of herself as an Assistant Principal at Dunaire Elementary, and as a beloved daughter, mother and friend; and

Whereas, Ms. Thurman has been chosen as the 2017 Administrator of the Year, representing Dunaire Elementary school; and

Whereas, Ms. Thurman is a graduate of the DeKalb County Schools, a mother of children in the DeKalb County Schools, a former teacher in the DeKalb County Schools, and for the past 25 years continues to make a difference in the lives of children as an Administrator in the DeKalb County Schools System; and

Whereas, Ms. Thurman is a virtuous woman, a courageous woman and a fearless leader who has shared her vision, talents and passion to help ensure that our teachers and administrators have the tools, support and resources needed to promote and produce an educational product that the community will find desirable; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Ms. Bridgette Dixon Thurman for her leadership and service for our District and in recognition of this singular honor as 2017 Administrator of the Year at Dunaire Elementary School;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim May 22, 2017 as Ms. Bridgette Dixon Thurman Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 22nd day of May, 2017.

THE RETIREMENT OF JIM RUANE,
MAYOR OF SAN BRUNO, FROM
PUBLIC OFFICE

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary public service of

Jim Ruane, the Mayor of San Bruno, California, who is leaving office after 22 years of unparalleled leadership, eight of them as Mayor. His wisdom, eloquence, and devotion to civic leadership will be sorely missed by the 43,000 residents of his beloved community by the bay.

Jim was first elected to the city council in 1995 after previously serving on the planning commission. Since he joined the council, and under his leadership and that of colleagues, San Bruno has undergone a transformation. A deactivated Navy base was transformed into a vibrant, mixed use community. Tanforan Shopping Mall has been revitalized and San Bruno's downtown core is poised for revitalization. Jim's service also includes the contentious period leading to the establishment of BART service to the San Francisco Peninsula, through San Bruno.

The creation of an elevated right of way for Caltrain above San Bruno Avenue was decades in the making. Today, traffic in San Bruno moves smoothly and without interruption from the 92 daily commuter trains that serve the Peninsula. Personally, I love trains, but it would take a true romantic to love being stuck on San Bruno Avenue in a long line of traffic as the trains go by on a hot summer day.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps the most solemn duty that any of us undertake as elected representatives is to defend our community's interests after a fatal assault. On September 9, 2010, San Bruno was fatally assaulted by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company when a 30 inch high pressure natural gas pipeline ruptured, killing eight innocent people, destroying 38 homes, and damaging dozens more. The fire was so enormous that fire equipment from throughout the Bay Area and beyond responded.

From the beginning, and for years afterwards, Jim Ruane was, without question, one of the finest public servants I have ever witnessed. Literally in the heat of the moment, he offered accurate and comforting information to his community and also to the world. In the days and months after the explosion, Mayor Ruane led his community in endless meetings, forcing PG&E to answer tough questions about its role in the explosion and deaths. Throughout that time, I joined him and witnessed his steady hand in both quieting traumatized crowds and reassuring tearful neighbors that justice would be done and answers delivered.

Mr. Speaker, San Bruno didn't have to pursue justice by suing PG&E, but it did. San Bruno didn't have to pursue justice by exposing corruption at a state agency known as the California Public Utilities Commission, but it did. San Bruno did not have to issue subpoenas and release documents to the world exposing the cozy relationship of PG&E and its regulators, but the city did because doing so was part of the process of justice needed to demonstrate that no entity—including PG&E—is above the law. The utility was subsequently found guilty in federal court of multiple felonies. It was fined \$3 million by the court, after earlier being penalized \$1.6 billion by a reconstituted California Public Utilities Commission.

I am firmly convinced that the leadership of San Bruno—and importantly all of its councilmembers during these years—did our nation a public service by independently seek-

ing justice in this case. Notably, Jim Ruane was the ever-present face of conviction. He remained absolutely convinced that America's legal system would allow a mouse to roar. And roar it did. We as a Congress have failed to learn the lessons of San Bruno, and have repeatedly failed to cure the defects in federal statutes that contributed to the San Bruno catastrophe. However, the actions of the City of San Bruno have made America safer by forcing management to consider safety in pipeline operations.

Jim Ruane is the loving father of Jim Jr. and Stephanie, and the proud grandfather to Gavin, Patrick, Brendan and Ryan. He is also the devoted husband of Noreen, his partner in life and fellow resident of San Bruno for over 40 years. He is a veteran of the Vietnam War era.

Today, I rise to celebrate Mayor Jim Ruane, a man like few others. He is quiet and wise in normal times, but imbued with a natural command presence during times of exigency. In my book, he is one of our local heroes. With his departure, we thank him for bringing justice to us all, crafted like the best plaster ornamentation his company creates in its daily work, an enduring beauty for every citizen to behold.

INTRODUCTION OF THE REDUCING
LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Reducing Long-Term Unemployment Act to address one of the lingering workforce tragedies in today's economy—our long-term unemployed—and to keep the economy growing. Although the overall unemployment rate has fallen to approximately four percent, Americans who have remained unemployed for longer than 27 weeks have not enjoyed a similar recovery. In October 2017, the number of long-term unemployed (those jobless for 27 weeks or more) was 1.6 million, which accounted for 24.8 percent of the total unemployed population.

To make matters even worse, the long-term unemployed now face employment discrimination as employers show reluctance to hire these job-seekers because of the length of their unemployment. Therefore, my bill provides a necessary incentive to hire the long-term unemployed—a \$5,000 tax credit for employers against their payroll tax liability for each (net) new long-term unemployed person they hire. This tax credit is large enough to give employers an incentive to increase the hiring and wages of those who have been unjustifiably left behind, while ensuring that the economy benefits from their participation. The credit would be available to the broadest base of employers because every employer, including nonprofits, pays payroll taxes, and employers could claim the credit on a quarterly, rather than annual, basis. According to the independent, non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, the proposal would "increase both output and employment" through four mechanisms: (1) with lower employment costs, employers would reduce the costs of their products and services, which, in turn, would first

boost sales and then hiring and hours worked; (2) employers would pass on some of the tax savings to employees in the form of higher wages or other compensation, which, in turn, would increase employees' purchasing power; (3) higher profits would lead to higher stock prices for public companies, increasing shareholders' wealth and therefore their willingness to spend; and (4) with lower employment costs, employers would increase hiring. The bill has safeguards to prevent employers from gaming the system, including denying a credit to an employer that fires one employee and hires a replacement in order to take advantage of the incentive.

For some time, it has been clear that targeted policies are necessary to address today's stubborn long-term unemployment rates. Without significant targeting, the long-term unemployed are in danger of becoming permanently unemployed. This group of competent and experienced Americans deserves better.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PROCLAMATION FOR BASICS

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD the following proclamation for BASICS:

Whereas, in 1976, the State Bar of Georgia began its Bar Association Support to Improve Correctional Services (BASICS), answering a Supreme Court challenge to attorneys to have a more active role in reducing recidivism rates. Since that time BASICS has been a worthy instrument for good in the state of Georgia; and

Whereas, the State Bar of Georgia is the only Bar Association that continues to have a BASICS World of Work program and we celebrate their forty years of service and making a difference in the lives of many; and

Whereas, this organization is a champion for facilitating self-rehabilitation through education throughout our state, ensuring the rights and liberties of our returning citizens into our communities, and making our society safer and stronger; and

Whereas, its members tirelessly and unconditionally serve our community by providing their time and talents to deliver a powerful, positive impact that results in productive citizens, enhanced community safety and reduced prison costs; and

Whereas, the lives of many in our district are influenced by the leadership and service given by the staff and members of BASICS. My district and our state is a better place due to their commitment to excellence in all of their endeavors; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize BASICS for its outstanding service to our state and to wish its members well on their 40th anniversary;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim March 4, 2017 as BASICS Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 4th day of March, 2017.

CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROYAL STUDIOS IN MEMPHIS

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate with my constituents and the entire music-loving world the 60th anniversary of Willie Mitchell's Royal Studios in my hometown of Memphis, Tennessee. Everyone knows a song mixed in the iconic South Memphis recording studio—whether it's last year's Grammy Award Record of the Year, Mark Ronson and Bruno Mars' "Uptown Funk," Al Green's classic "I'm Still in Love With You," Boz Skaggs' album full of tunes called "Memphis," or Bobby "Blue" Bland's "Touch of the Blues." Royal Studios, started in 1957 by the late Willie Mitchell, was the home of Hi and the Hi Rhythm Section and produced chart-topping hits throughout the 1960s and '70s. One of the oldest continuously operating recording studios, it remains a place of pilgrimage under a second generation of Mitchell leadership, hosting such stars as the Rolling Stones' Keith Richards and Led Zeppelin's Robert Plant, among many others. I recently attended the electrifying 60th anniversary celebration for Royal Studios at the historic Orpheum Theatre and heard Tony Joe White play "A Rainy Night in Georgia," Syl Johnson's meditative version of Al Green's and the late Mabon "Teenie" Hodges' "Take Me to the River," and Anthony Hamilton's soulful version of Green's signature "Tired of Being Alone." Grammy Award winning saxophonist Kirk Whalum opened the show, which featured Ronnie Brooks doing Otis Clay's "Trying to Live My Life Without You" and Natalie Stovall's memorable version of "I Can't Stand the Rain." Bluesman Robert Cray and Dave Stewart of the Eurythmics also charmed the crowd. The show, emceed by Willie's son Lawrence "Boo" Mitchell, who engineered "Uptown Funk" and saw it stay at No. 1 on Billboard's Hot 100 for 14 weeks, paid tribute to a Memphis institution still going strong into its seventh decade. I want to congratulate all the Royal family of musicians and technicians and encourage my friends to find the time this holiday season to sit and listen to Boz Skaggs' version of "So Good to Be Here," or any of the hundreds of songs on the Royal Studios discography. We're so glad Royal Studios continues to bring Memphis music to the world and help it dance to a Memphis beat. I wish it many more years of success.

IN RECOGNITION OF KEN IBARRA

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the accomplishments of an uncommonly generous man who has donated countless hours to his community in both public and private life. Ken Ibarra, the Vice Mayor of the City of San Bruno, is leaving public office after 21 years. To say that Ken will be missed is an understatement.

To imagine Ken Ibarra, you must first imagine a version of the Energizer Bunny, except that this bunny has an enormous smile and is crowned with beautiful, jet black hair. As to Ken's energy, let me offer you just one example. The San Bruno Lions Club is one of the most active clubs on the Peninsula. At civic events in San Bruno Park, the club's BBQ is often set up. Now, imagine the Energizer Bunny, sweating from all-day exposure to the heat, slinging hamburgers right and left, shouting out to hundreds of friends, tossing hot dogs onto hot platters, and all the while downing an extraordinary amount of unidentified, but undoubtedly healthy, liquid refreshment.

Obviously, Ken puts the bunny to shame.

In addition to these and other volunteer tasks, Ken has served in multiple leadership positions in the Lions Clubs, up to the district level where he served as District Governor in 2009. He has always embodied the slogan of the Lions: We Serve. He has also devoted his leadership skills to the American Cancer Society Relay for Life and the Bay Area Special Olympics Lions Club.

Ken Ibarra was originally appointed to serve an unexpired term on the city council, and from that day forward he never ceased his dedication to the betterment of San Bruno. During his years in office, he's represented the City of San Bruno on so many local and countywide boards and commissions that they are too numerous to mention. Importantly, Ken has served on the San Mateo County Transportation Authority, the San Mateo County Housing Endowment and Regional Trust (HEART) Board, the Grand Boulevard Steering Committee, and the San Francisco Airport Community Roundtable.

During his time in office, Ken and his council colleagues reshaped the face of San Bruno, dealing with many longstanding community challenges including the grade separation of the Caltrain right of way, the renovation of Tanforan Shopping Mall, the construction of new housing at the Crossings/San Bruno, and water and wastewater improvements that only an architect and civic improvement aficionado like Ken Ibarra could truly appreciate. I can honestly say that it takes a really special person to get excited by wastewater improvement projects. Well, thankfully for San Bruno, Ken Ibarra is that kind of guy.

On September 9, 2010, San Bruno was rocked by the explosion of a high pressure natural gas transmission pipeline. Eight residents were killed, 38 homes destroyed outright and dozens more severely damaged. In the aftermath of the explosion, Ken Ibarra stood in alliance with his council colleagues in seeking justice for those killed and for the entire city. Over hours in the intervening years, Ken helped lead his community through the painful discovery of malfeasance by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, wrongdoing that culminated in felony convictions for the company's actions, \$1.6 billion in penalties, and \$3 million in court-ordered fines.

It takes a special type of person to file for re-election in the years after the trust of your fellow citizens has been rocked to its core by fatal corporate wrongdoing. Always, you must ask yourself, "Is it worth it?" Ken filed, and was re-elected. However, as a local government official under these circumstances, you lose sleep, shed tears, publicly and privately grieve, and try to help your community focus on tomorrow and its possibilities while its citizens are constantly haunted by the past. Ken